



Making New Friends, Having Fun, Promoting and Preserving Canada’s National Horse
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My Life as a Horse Photographer

By Robert Alexander



Robert with Canadream Kelbeck Ébène

I got into horse photography quite by accident. Oxford County would pay me to drive around the countryside to photograph landscapes for use as marketing photos for the county. Whenever I would see horses in a field, I would stop and go to the fence and take photos of them. Some would come to the fence to say hello, and I was hooked. At that time, all horses were big and brown.

I stopped one day on a back road north of Woodstock to photograph a dam and foal and posted the photo on Facebook. It was noticed by the owner who tracked me down. We met for four hours and talked about horses.



They were Standardbred breeders, had about 100 horses, and averaged 30 foals a year. I also learned their horses were not the same as Thoroughbreds. That was five years ago, and the beginning of a love of all horses.



Jalna Luckybud Whisper, owned by Barb Malcolm, Churchill Chimes Equestrian Centre, Uxbridge, ON

I then purchased many horse books, subscribed to magazines, and thought I should start visiting farms to learn more about the different breeds of horses. The breeds I have since photographed include Akhal-Teke, Andalusian, Appaloosa, Arabian, Belgian, Caspian, Clydesdale, Dutch Warmblood, Fjord, Friesian, Gypsy Vanner, Hackney pony, Haflinger, Hanoverian, Icelandic, Knabstrupper, Lusitano, Morgan, Nez Perce, Newfoundland pony, Oldenburg, Ojibwe spirit horse, Paint, Palomino, Paso Fino, Percheron, Pintabian, Pony of the Americas, Quarter horse, Rocky Mountain, Selle Français, Shetland pony, Shire, Spotted draft, Spotted saddle, Standardbred, Suffolk Punch, Tennessee Walker, Thoroughbred, Trakehner, Welsh pony, Westphalian, Zweibrücker, and of course, the Canadian.

The Canadian quickly became my favourite breed, and I visited 13 Canadian horse farms in 2024. Why? Big brave heart, more athletic than a warmblood, calmer than a sport horse, faster learning than a hot blood, and more beautiful than any breed I have ever met. I find the Canadian friendlier than any breed I have photographed, and the foals are just a joy to be around.



Canadream Kelbeck Ébène, owned by Samantha Rentner, Snowy River Canadians, Coldwater, ON

As far as photographing horses, I had to learn by reading a lot: about the horse brain, human brain, how horses interact with humans, how I wanted them to pose, where the mane was, where the tail was, were the ears forward?—all things that made for better photos. My secret for good horse photos has been to shoot at a fast speed (1,000 of a second) with lens wide open (2.8 in my case), standing in the middle of the paddock while the owner gets the horses running around me.

As my health has caused me to slow down, and I can no longer carry a heavy camera around, I am becoming a cell phone photographer. The new cell phones can take exceptional photos if one understands how they work. I



miss my visits to the horse farms to hug a horse, but there are a couple of farms close to home that I will still travel to occasionally to get my horse fix.



Riverside Ébène Lincoln, owned by Shelagh Morrison, Ailsa Craig, ON

Editor's Note: Many of us have come to know Robert Alexander, an exceptionally gifted photographer who has taken thousands of photos of Canadian Horses around the province. Many examples of his work appear regularly on Canadian Horse Facebook pages and invariably receive glowing comments. Thanks to Robert, a CCHAO member who allows us to use his photos without restriction, we were able to produce our first calendar this year. Unfortunately, Robert has encountered severe health issues during the past few months that have limited his ability to get out to shows and farms to engage in his beloved pastime. We wish him well and thank him for contributing this article and photos.

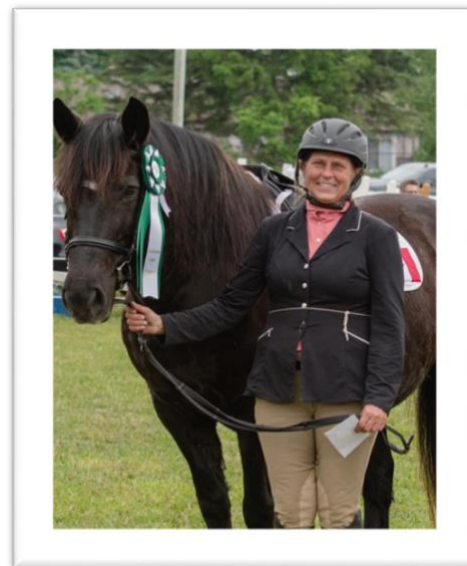
Caledon Fair Canadian Horse Show

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

CCHAO's third show at the Caledon Fair took place on Sunday, 15 June. Ten horses participated, with many of the thirty-six available classes drawing a strong field of entries.

This year's High Point Performance Horse was Barb Malcolm's 23-year-old gelding, Moonshadows Alex Mallon [CAN 9942]. Given that this was Mallon's first show, as far as Barb is aware, his achievement was even more impressive and certainly encouraging for owners of older horses.

Special thanks to judge Stephanie Rutherford, announcer Helena Mazzacato, show registrar Sandra Addison, show marshall Rhonda Turley and to all the participants for their part in making the show such a success.



Mallon with owner Barb Malcolm



Caledon Capers 2025



Photos courtesy of Robert Alexander



Caledon Show Results

*(Name) indicates handler

1. **Mares, 2 yrs and under** No Entries

2. **Mares, 3 & 4 yrs**

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella owned by Sandy and John Churchill (S. Churchill)

3. **Mares, 5 yrs and over**

1st Canadream Navajo Zaida owned by Sandy and John Churchill (S. Churchill)

2nd Jalna Luckybud Whisper owned by Barb Malcolm

3rd DuCouteau Dandy Nancy owned by Barb Malcolm (B. Malcolm)

4. **Champion & Reserve Mare (open to 1st and 2nd placings in classes 1-3)**

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella (S. Churchill)

2nd Jalna Luckybud Whisper (B. Malcolm)

5. **Geldings, 2 yrs and under** No Entries

6. **Geldings, 3 & 4 yrs** No Entries

7. **Geldings, 5 yrs and over**

1st Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi owned by Sandra and Jack Addison (Jack Addison)

2nd Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind owned by Barb Malcolm (Megan Bingley)

3rd Moonshadows Alex Mellon owned by Barb Malcolm (Allison Lam)

8. **Champion & Reserve Gelding (open to 1st and 2nd placings in classes 5-7)**

1st Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (J. Addison)

2nd Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (M. Bingley)

9. **Stallions, 2 yrs and under** No Entries

10. **Stallions, 3 & 4 yrs** No Entries

11. **Stallions, 5 yrs and over** No Entries

12. **Champion & Reserve Stallion (open to 1st and 2nd placing in classes 9-11)** No Entries

13. **Grand Champion & Reserve (open to 1st placing from classes 4, 8, and 12)**

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella (S. Churchill)

2nd Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (J. Addison)

14. **Senior Showmanship (over 16 yrs)**

1st Lauren Rambajue, F.B. Herquule Sunkist owned by Barb Malcolm

2nd Wendy Bowden, Moonshadows Alex Mallon, owned by B. Malcolm

3rd Lizzie Dunlop, Jalna Luckybud Whisper

15. **Junior Showmanship (16 yrs and under)**

1st Bianka St. Denis, Canadream Navajo Zaida

16. **Novice Showmanship (Adults, 1st year competing)**

1st A. Lam, Moonshadows Alex Mallon

2nd M. Bingley, Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind

3rd Ana Miric, F.B. Herquule Sunkist

17. **Dressage Suitability – in hand**

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella (S. Churchill)

2nd Heronwood Tolou Balou, owned by Saira Knowles (S. Knowles)

3rd Jalna Luckybud Whisper (Lizzie Dunlop)

18. **Single Horse Pleasure Driving, 2 & 3 yr mare or colt**

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella (S. Churchill)

19. **Under Saddle, 3 yr mare or colt, walk/trot, (English/Western)**

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella (S. Churchill)



20. Trail Horse – 3 yrs or under, led only

1st Churchill Kelbeck Izzabella (S. Churchill)

21. Single Horse Pleasure Driving

1st Canadream Navajo Zaida (S. Churchill)

22. Youth Single Driving

1st Canadream Navajo Zaida (Bianka St. Denis)

23. Pairs Pleasure Driving No Entries

24. Junior (under 18 yrs) Equitation – walk, trot

1st Canadream Navajo Zaida (B. St. Denis)

2nd DuCouteau Dandy Nancy (Jae Ramlill)

**25. Adult (18-49 years) Equitation – walk, trot
(English/Western)**

1st Moonshadows Alex Mallon (A. Lam)

2nd Just Norton, owned by Barb Malcolm (Lizzy Dunlop)

3rd Jalna Luckybud Whisper (Aline Boulard)

**26. Senior (50+ years) Equitation – walk, trot
(English/Western)**

1st Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (Gail Collins)

2nd Canadream Navajo Zaida (Jackie Norman)

3rd Moonshadows Alex Mallon (Wendy Bowden)

**27. Open Equitation – walk, trot, canter, rein back
(English/Western)**

1st Heronwood Tolou Balou (S. Knowles)

2nd Just Norton (L. Dunlop)

3rd Jalna Luckybud Whisper (A. Bouchard)

28. Western Pleasure

1st Hidden Meadow Neirin Yazhi (J. Addison)

29. English Pleasure

1st Heronwood Tolou Balou (S. Knowles)

2nd Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (G. Collins)

3rd Moonshadows Alex Mallon (A. Lam)

30. Hunter Hack (2 jumps of cross rails (max. 18 inches)

1st Moonshadows Alex Mallon (L. Rambajue)

2nd Just Norton (L. Dunlop)

3rd Heronwood Tolou Balou (S. Knowles)

**31. Jump Course – 1st round at 18 in. cross rails; jump
off at 20 in**

1st Just Norton (L. Dunlop)

2nd Moonshadows Alex Mallon (L. Rambajue)

3rd Jalna Luckybud Whisper (A. Boulard)

**32. Dressage Suitability – Emphasis on horse's
potential as a dressage horse (English/Western)**

1st Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (G. Collins)

2nd Heronwood Tolou Balou (S. Knowles)

3rd Jalna Luckybud Whisper (J. Ramlill)

33. Road Hack (English/Western)

1st Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (M. Bingley)

2nd Heronwood Tolou Balou (S. Knowles)

3rd Moonshadows Alex Mallon (L. Rambajue)

34. Command Class (English/Western)

1st Moonshadows Alex Mallon (L. Rambajue)

2nd Just Norton (L. Dunlop)

3rd Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (G. Collins)

35. Trail Horse (English/Western)

1st Moonshadows Alex Mallon (L. Rambajue)

2nd Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (M. Bingley)

3rd Just Norton (L. Dunlop)

36. Costume (ride/drive NOT lead)

1st Canadream Navajo Zaida (B. St. Denis)

2nd Beckett's Creek Ferari Wind (M. Bingley)

3rd F.B. Herquule Sunkist (L. Rambajue)



Merrickville Fair Canadian Horse Show

By Gail Cuthbert Brandt

Lots of sun and lots of smiles characterized this year's show in Merrickville. The fairgrounds, located approximately 75 km southwest of Ottawa, is the site of the longest running Canadian Horse Show in our province.

There were 17 entries from Ontario and Quebec, due to good advance publicity on various Canadian Horse websites prepared by Laura Hoy and to a participant subsidy program managed by CCHAO. Thanks to a very generous donation of \$2500, we were able to fund the top award—Overall Best Registered Canadian Horse on Grounds (\$500)—and to divide the remaining amount among the participating owners, based on the numbers of horses they showed.

The winner of the CCHAO-sponsored award was Gullydale Zector Dolly [CAN 15029], a nine-year-old mare owned by Mario Robidoux of Howick, Quebec and shown by Stéphane Trudel. The reserve champion was Maro Fusion Kara [CAN 15477], a two-year-old filly, also owned by Mr. Robidoux and handled by Samuel Robidoux.

As you can see from the excellent accompanying photos taken by Joey Neven, there was a wide age range among the participants. It is especially heartening to see young children proudly showing off their Canadian Horses.



Stéphane Trudel with Dolly, Overall Best Registered Canadian



Samuel Robidoux with Kara, Reserve Overall Best Registered Canadian

[Full results of the show were not available at the time this article was written.]



Merrickville Merriment 2025



Upcoming Events

Ottawa Valley Hunt Hunter Paces are planned for the following dates, if anyone is interested in trailering their Canadian to them:

Sunday, 21 September 2025

Sunday, 19 October 2025

All OVH hunter paces are open to the public, and horses are welcome in English or Western tack. Dress is casual, and helmets are required. Fees are \$75 (in advance with online registration) or \$85 same day entry. All hunter paces begin at 9 a.m. (but you can arrive later, as teams can set out up to 11 a.m.) You follow markers for a cross-country ride with optional jumps at your own pace. Depending on the weather/conditions, the paces are about 20 km long (the average length of a field hunt), but you can take a shortcut if needed. All hunter paces start from the Ottawa Valley Hunt, 8935 Abb Road, Ashton, Ontario (just west of Ottawa). Online registration will open a few weeks in advance of each hunter pace, and info will be on the OVH website: <https://ottawavalleyhunt.com/>

For more information, please contact Laura Hoy:
edgewoodcanadians@gmail.com



Ancaster Fair Canadian Horse Show, Sunday, 21

September, 11 a.m.

Eight classes available (Class 14, 1-8). Sign up **on or before Sept 5 @ 4:30 p.m.** For details and to register, please go to the following link: [Horse Show Prize List — Ancaster Agricultural Society](#).

For additional information, please contact Tina McNaughton:



Photos from Ancaster Fair, 2024

Annual General Meeting on Zoom, Saturday, 18 October

Please note that our AGM will be held during the afternoon of Saturday, 18 October. The exact time has yet to be determined. You will receive further notification, along with a meeting agenda, via email in September. Elections of officers will take place at this meeting.



PLEASE SHARE THIS FORM WITH OTHER CANADIAN HORSE ENTHUSIASTS
CHEVAL CANADIEN HORSE ASSOCIATION ONTARIO (CCHAO)
2025 Membership Form (January 1 – December 31)

Please print in block letters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Type: (Please check appropriate type.)

Adult - 18 yrs and over, 1 CCHAO vote \$50 \$_____

Youth - 17 yrs and under, 1 CCHAO vote \$25 \$_____

Couple - 2 adults, 2 CCHAO votes \$80 \$_____

Family - 2 adults & related youth, 2 CCHAO votes \$100 \$_____

Associate - Does not own a Canadian Horse –Non-Voting \$25 \$_____

Other Voluntary Donation: \$_____

Total remitted: \$_____

Please make cheques payable to Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario and mail to: Sandra Addison, 32 Kitchen Road, Vittoria, ON N0E 1W0

If you would **NOT** like to have your name and e-mail address shared with other members, please check the following statement:

_____ I do not wish to have my name and contact information published in CCHAO's membership directory.

Photo/Video Release Authorization

I, the undersigned, give permission to CCHAO and to its designated agents, to photograph/video me at CCHAO activities and to use such photographs/videos in all forms of media, for any and all promotional purposes.

I further consent to the use of my name in connection with the photographs/videos. I understand that I will not receive any payment for my time or expenses or any royalty for the use of the photo/video, and I hereby release CCHAO from any such claims.

Member's Signature: _____

For Couple or Family Memberships, please provide additional names and signatures:

Parent's Signature for members under 18 years of age: _____

Date: _____

